

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 31, 2011

**ILLINOIS SUPREME COURT APPOINTS LONGTIME
LASALLE ATTORNEY AS CIRCUIT JUDGE**

The Illinois Supreme Court announced Thursday that Richard J. Lannon, a practicing attorney for over 51 years, has been appointed a resident circuit judge in the Thirteenth Judicial Circuit.

Chief Justice Thomas L. Kilbride recommended that Mr. Lannon be appointed to fill the Circuit Court vacancy created by the December 2010 retirement of Judge James A. Lanuti. The vacancy is temporarily being filled by Judge James Brusatte who left retirement to fill the position.

Under the Illinois Constitution, the Supreme Court is given the authority to fill judicial vacancies.

“I am very honored that Chief Justice Kilbride and the Supreme Court have entrusted me with this important position. I look forward to giving my best as I have tried to do throughout the course of my career,” said Mr. Lannon.

Mr. Lannon’s career has centered on trial law, primarily consisting of personal injury and workman’s compensation cases. At one point, he calculated that he has tried more than 150 cases to a jury.

Mr. Lannon received his *juris doctor* degree in 1960 from the University of Illinois College of Law, where he was elected to the Order of the Coif. He has served as president of the LaSalle law firm of Herbolsheimer, Lannon, Henson, Duncan & Reagan, P.C. since 1993. He has been a partner with the same firm since 1963.

Mr. Lannon has been active in several civic and legal organizations. He has held memberships with the Illinois State Bar Association; the LaSalle County Bar Association, serving as president from 1966-1968; the LaSalle, Peru, Oglesby, Spring Valley Bar Association, serving as president from 1966-1980; the American Bar Association; Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel; Illinois Trial Lawyers Association; Defense Research Institute; and the American Judicature Society.

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He also served as president of the local Jaycees from 1962-1963. Mr. Lannon was heavily involved in establishing the Illinois Valley United Fund and served as its first president in 1967.

Chief Justice Kilbride uses an extensive application, evaluation and interview process to make recommendations to the Supreme Court for judicial vacancies in the Third Judicial District.

As part of the evaluation process, Chief Justice Kilbride had publicly asked for and taken applications for Judge Lanuti's vacancy, and eight persons applied. Chief Justice Kilbride also sought written comments about the candidates from the community. The evaluation process also included background checks by police authorities and with the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

A survey of all attorneys residing in the 13th Circuit was conducted by the Illinois State Bar Association. The attorneys were surveyed on their opinions of the applicants' integrity, temperament, legal ability, management skills and other professional qualifications.

Chief Justice Kilbride appointed a 17 person judicial screening committee made up of representatives from the community, including non-lawyers as well as members of the legal profession to evaluate all of the information submitted regarding the applicants.

Mr. Lannon's appointment is effective April 18, 2011 and will expire December 3, 2012, when the position will be filled by the 2012 General Election. Mr. Lannon indicated he will not seek election to the seat.

The Thirteenth Judicial Circuit is comprised of Bureau, Grundy and LaSalle counties.

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(FOR MORE INFORMATION, please contact Joseph R. Tybor, press secretary to the Illinois Supreme Court, at 312-793-2323).